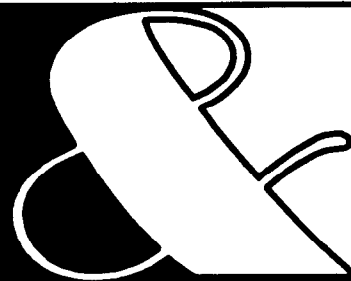


hazardous substances



Public Health

A publication of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

Volume 2, Supplement 2

Special APHA Edition

November 1992

Explanations for the Exposed; Help for the Hassled; Answers for the Anxious

If you learned that your home or community had been contaminated by a hazardous substance, you would probably have a lot of questions, but you might not be sure where to get the answers. Some citizens turn to their health care providers for information; others, to a reference librarian. But even these professionals may have difficulty locating a resource for the nontechnical reader.

The *Public Health Statements*, originally published as part of ATSDR's *Toxicological Profiles* series, explain in clear language the health effects of chemicals found at hazardous waste sites. Written for citizens concerned about hazardous substances in their communities, the statements describe each substance, how exposure may occur and possible health effects, medical tests available to determine exposure, and sources of further information.

Eighty of the public health statements will be distributed in notebook form to health professionals at the federal, state, and local levels; academia; and members of the public involved with Superfund sites. A special *Public Health Statements* notebook containing the 80 documents is being prepared for introduction at APHA. The statements have been attractively redesigned using pictures (ideograms), innovative typography, and a 3-ring binder format that allows the user to easily remove and reproduce the statement of interest.

A limited number of the new notebooks will be available for inspection at the ATSDR Exhibit Booth at APHA. Stop by, give us your comments, and find out how you can order the ATSDR *Public Health Statements* notebook for your organization.

Case Studies in Environmental Medicine Enters Second Phase

Although the public is increasingly concerned about environmental health issues, relatively few sources are available to inform health care professionals of health effects caused by hazardous substances in the environment. The problem is compounded when concerned citizens seek information on hazardous exposures from their health care providers.

In 1990, ATSDR began developing a series of monographs entitled *Case Studies in Environmental Medicine* to address this need. These self-instructional exercises in environmental medicine are designed to guide primary care practitioners through the diagnosis and treatment of illness in persons potentially exposed to hazardous substances in the environment. The documents were prepared and peer-reviewed with the assistance of physicians and other health care professionals, including representatives of the American Medical Association, American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, American

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry



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College of Emergency Physicians, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, and the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine.

Because of the overwhelming demand for *Case Studies in Environmental Medicine*, the series is now being reprinted. Since the series was begun, nearly 200,000 copies have been distributed to health care professionals throughout the United States.

The original *Case Studies* topics were selected from chemicals found at sites on the National Priorities List. These were arsenic; asbestos; benzene; cadmium; chromium; cyanide; dioxins; lead; methylene chloride; polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs); polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs); radon; tetrachloroethylene; trichloroethylene; and vinyl chloride. A second set of chemical topics were beryllium; carbon tetrachloride; chlordane; cholinesterase inhibitors; mercury; methanol; nitrates/nitrites; phenols; 1,1,1-trichloroethane; and toluene.

Seventeen of the monographs in the series are now in print, with 16 more in production. These titles include a number of special topics: How To Take an Exposure History, Risk Communication, Skin Lesions, and Reproductive Effects of Hazardous Substances. In addition, four case studies are being prepared specifically for use by the Air Force, which now has a number of sites on the National Priorities List. The topics are ethylene glycol, jet fuels 4 and 7, Stoddard solvent, and gasoline.

Each case study opens with a list of specific objectives, a stand-alone case report concerning a specific toxicant, and the opportunity to respond to several pretest questions about the case. Health care providers receive up-to-date information regarding the chemistry, toxicology, symptomatology, and patient treatment for the toxic substance. A short quiz at the end of the document allows practitioners to test their understanding of the material. Responses to the questions are provided to assure optimum learning benefit. Approximately one hour is required to complete each monograph.

Participants who complete a case study may apply for continuing medical education (CME) credit, which is

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120TH APHA Meeting

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Environmental Health Information

required for licensure in most states, or continuing education units (CEU). Selected *Case Studies* are being published, some in abridged form, by major medical journals in pediatrics and family medicine.

According to Donna Orti, chief of the Health Professions Education Branch, "These *Case Studies* have been very useful, not only in their primary function of imparting knowledge, but also in alerting health professionals to the need for such information. When clinicians become aware of the resource, they will often remember that a patient has asked questions about such a problem in the past."

For more information, contact Patricia Poindexter, Project Manager, Division of Health Education, ATSDR, 1600 Clifton Road, NE, MS E33, Atlanta, Georgia 30333; telephone (404) 639-6205.

Looking for Clues: Unraveling the Association Between Illness and Environmental Exposure

Do you live next to or near an industrial plant, commercial business, dump site, or nonresidential property? Do you

(or any household member) have a hobby or craft? Do you use pesticides in your home, garden, or on pets? What is the source of heating and cooking in your home? Have you recently bought any new furniture or carpet, refinished furniture, or remodeled your home?

The answers to these questions are some of the "clues" physicians, nurses, and other health professionals are looking for when they investigate cases of suspected environmental exposure. Learning how to take an exposure history is crucial for primary health care practitioners, who are increasingly confronted with patients' questions about the risks of environmental contamination and hazardous waste.

To improve the education of health professionals in this area, ATSDR has developed a course entitled "Clues To Unraveling the Association Between Illness and Environmental Exposure." The "Clues" course explores the relationship between exposure to hazardous substances and illness and enables health professionals to identify appropriate patient, family, and community interventions and responses to public health concerns.

Program content is organized so that course curriculum is appropriate for each target audience, such as the general and nursing courses presented November 7 and 8 at the APHA Annual Meeting. The "Clues" course target audiences include primary care physicians and nurses, occupational and environmental health physicians and nurses, epidemiologists, toxicologists, sanitarians, and public health professionals.

The "Clues" course draws upon the expertise of all four divisions within ATSDR: Health Assessment and Consultation, Toxicology, Health Studies, and Health Education. In addition, faculty are invited from state and local environmental health offices (such as professionals in the Office of Public Health or Department of Environmental Quality), from academia, and from other federal agencies (e.g., the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency). Faculty from cosponsoring institutions are also invited to participate in "Clues" courses.

Besides the full-day comprehensive "Clues" course, ATSDR offers a 2-3 hour mini-course in the form of an environmental health education workshop that may focus

on topics such as assessing health effects of hazardous substance exposure or health risk communication. All courses are approved for continuing education credit.

The 1-day course is offered for continuing medical education (CME) credit in Category 1 of the Physician's Recognition Award of the American Medical Association and for continuing education units (CEU) for other health professionals. Credit is also available from other professional associations such as the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP).

The "Clues" course will be offered at the following venues:

November 7 APHA Continuing Education
Institute: ATSDR Training
Program – Nursing (see page 4)
Washington, DC

November 8 APHA Continuing Education
Institute: ATSDR Training
Program – General (see page 4)
Washington, DC

December 4 Hazardous Materials Control
Resources Institute (HMCRI),
Superfund '92, Washington, DC

April 17-20 Prevention 93 (half-day course),
St. Louis, MO

April 24-30 American Occupational Health
Conference, Atlanta, GA

**Date to be
announced** For physician members of the
American College of
Occupational and
Environmental Medicine
(ACOEM) (full-day course)

April 25 For nurse members of the
American Association of
Occupational Health Nurses
(AAOHN) (half-day course)

"Clues" courses at the 1992 APHA Annual Meeting

C.E. Institute 2: ATSDR Training Program—Nursing Course is being offered Saturday, November 7, 1992, from 9 AM to 4 PM at the Sheraton Washington Hotel, Washington, DC. On-site registration is open from 8:30 AM to 9 AM but is contingent on space available. Enrollment is limited to 50 persons. Tuition is \$50. The Virginia Nurses Association, a member of the American Nurses Credentialing Center Committee on Accreditation, has approved this program for continuing education credit based on 5.5 contact hours.

C.E. Institute 3: ATSDR Training Program—General Course is being offered Sunday, November 8, 1992, from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM at the Sheraton Washington Hotel, Washington, DC. On-site registration is open from 8 AM to 8:30 AM but is contingent on space available. Enrollment is limited to 75 persons. Tuition is \$50. The course is being offered for 6.5 hours of continuing medical education (CME) credit in Category 1 of the Physician's Recognition Award of the American Medical Association and for 0.7 hour of continuing education units (CEU) for other health professionals. The Virginia Nurses Association, a member of the American Nurses Credentialing Center Committee on Accreditation, has approved this program for continuing education credit based on 6.5 contact hours.

For more information on "Clues" courses, please contact Diane Narkunas, Division of Health Education, ATSDR, Mailstop E33, 1600 Clifton Road, NE, Atlanta, GA 30333; telephone (404) 639-6205; fax (404) 639-6208.

For information on other continuing education opportunities offered by ATSDR, please contact Alan Janssen, Division of Health Education, ATSDR, Mailstop E33, 1600 Clifton Road, NE, Atlanta, GA 30333; telephone (404) 639-6205; fax (404) 639-6208.

For information on other continuing education programs offered through APHA, please contact the Continuing Education Program, APHA, 1015 15th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005; telephone (202) 789-5622; fax (202) 789-5661.

Welcome to Washington!

Greetings from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia. While you are at the American Public Health Association annual meeting, we hope you'll visit booths 413 and 415, at the front of the exhibit hall. Besides copies of *Hazardous Substances and Public Health (HSPH)*, you'll find information about free continuing medical education credits and courses in environmental health. Our staff will also show you samples of some of our publications on environmental health-related topics.

The mission of ATSDR is to prevent or mitigate adverse human health effects and diminished quality of life resulting from exposure to hazardous substances in the environment. If you are already familiar with *HSPH*, you know that it is devoted to meeting the information resource needs of health care professionals concerned about these human health consequences.

We began this year of publication with a special issue on lead toxicity, a silent epidemic endangering the nation's young children. In our next issue, we will feature another special topic: American Indian/Alaska Native environmental health. The newsletter, which is distributed free of charge to primary care providers and other health professionals, also offers updates on key meetings, publications, training opportunities, and federal and state activities related to environmental health.

We hope that *HSPH* is a valuable resource for our readers. But to ensure its usefulness, we need to hear from you. Please let us know about your accomplishments and your information needs. Together, we can make a difference in the quality of environmental public health.

Teresa L. Ramsey
Managing Editor

Hazardous Substances and Public Health

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call for Abstracts

1993 Hazardous Waste Congress in Atlanta

The first International Congress on the Health Effects of Hazardous Waste will be held in Atlanta on May 3-6, 1993, at the Marriott Marquis Hotel. Sponsored by ATSDR and the Emory University School of Public Health, the Congress will provide an exchange of ideas, recommendations, and findings related to the human health effects of hazardous waste. The intended audience includes environmental epidemiologists, toxicologists, and health scientists from both government and academic settings; clinical and public health physicians working in environmental and occupational health; health educators; public health administrators and policymakers; health, safety, and management representatives from industry, professional environmentalists; and the general public.

The Congress is cosponsored by the Centers for Disease Control, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics, the Carter Center of Emory University, the International Life Sciences Institute, the International Programme on Chemical Safety, the International Society for Exposure Analysis, the Pan American Health Organization, The Sierra Club, the Chemical Manufacturers Association, the Association of Schools of Public Health, and the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology.

Abstracts are being solicited for poster presentations and concurrent sessions in the following subject areas:

- exposure,
- health effects,
- assessment of exposure and health effects, and
- research needs.

For more information about abstract submissions and conference registration, please contact Steve Von Allmen, Science Policy Analyst, Office of the Assistant Administrator, ATSDR, 1600 Clifton Road, NE, Mailstop E28, Atlanta, GA 30333; telephone (404) 639-0708. *Abstracts must be postmarked no later than January 14, 1993.*

Meetings

PREVENTION 93 Focuses on Health Care Reform

PREVENTION 93, the tenth annual national disease prevention and health promotion meeting, will be held in St. Louis, Missouri, from April 17-20, 1993. The meeting theme, "Leadership for Prevention in Health Care Reform," will be the focus of four days of workshops, poster sessions, and paper presentations. The roles and responsibilities of public health, organized medicine, the private sector, and individuals will be examined and considered in terms of access and delivery, the relationship between prevention and primary care, the inclusion of public health and clinical preventive services into the proposed paradigms, and the costs—human and economic—of including or excluding prevention strategies.

For more information, please contact Emily Parker Slough, Meetings Manager, PREVENTION 93, 1015 15th St., NW, Suite 403, Washington, DC 20005-2605; telephone (202) 789-0006; fax (202) 289-8274.

Symposium on Statistical Methods Sponsored by CDC and ATSDR

The 1993 Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and ATSDR Symposium on Quantitative Methods for Utilization of Multi-Source Data in Public Health will be held January 26-27, 1993, at the Hotel Nikko in Atlanta, Georgia.

For additional information regarding scientific content of the Symposium and short course, please contact G. David Williamson, PhD, Chair, 1993 CDC and ATSDR Symposium on Quantitative Methods for Utilization of Multi-Source Data in Public Health, Epidemiology Program Office (Mailstop C08), Centers for Disease Control, 1600 Clifton Road, NE, Atlanta, GA 30333; telephone (404) 639-3806.

To request registration information, please contact Phaedra Shaffer, MPA, Epidemiology Program Office (Mailstop C08), Centers for Disease Control, 1600 Clifton Road, NE, Atlanta, GA 30333; telephone (404) 639-0080.

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

Nov. 16-20: Fundamentals of Industrial Hygiene, Virginia Beach, Virginia. *Contact:* American Industrial Hygiene Association, P.O. Box 8390, 345 White Pond Dr., Akron, OH 44320; telephone (216) 873-2442; fax (216) 873-1642.

DECEMBER

Dec. 1-3: International Conference on Women and Environment, Alexandria, Egypt. *Contact:* Dr. Samia Galal Saad, Department of Environmental Health, High Institute of Public Health, 165 El-Horriya Ave., Alexandria, EGYPT; telephone (20 3) 421 5575; fax (20 3) 421 8436.

Dec. 1-4: HMC/Superfund '92 Conference and Exhibition, Washington, DC. *Contact:* Hazardous Materials Control Resources Institute, 7237 Hanover Parkway, Greenbelt, MD 20770-3602; telephone (301) 982-9500; fax (301) 220-3870.

Dec. 3-4: Landfills and Ground Water Quality Protection Issues, Orlando, Florida. *Contact:* Trisha Freeman, National Ground Water Association, 6375 Riverside Dr., Dublin, OH 43017; telephone (614) 761-1711.

Dec. 3-5: Fifth National Environmental Health Conference, Atlanta, Georgia. *Contact:* Lisa Townsend, c/o National Center for Environmental Health, Centers for Disease Control, Mailstop F29, 1600 Clifton Rd., NE, Atlanta, GA 30333; telephone (404) 633-8610.

Dec. 7-9: National Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Conference, Atlanta, Georgia. *Contact:* Jerry Hershovitz, Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch, Division of Environmental Hazards and Health Effects, National Center for Environmental Health, Centers for Disease Control, Mailstop F28, 1600 Clifton Rd., NE, Atlanta, GA 30333; telephone (404) 488-4880.

Dec. 7-11: 40-hour OSHA Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response, Oak Ridge, Tennessee. *Contact:* Waste Management Training Center, Roane State Community College, 728 Emory Valley Road, Oak Ridge, TN 37830; telephone (800) 343-9104; fax (615) 483-0613.

JANUARY

Jan. 25-27: Symposium on Quantitative Methods for Utilization of Multi-Source Data in Public Health, Atlanta, Georgia. *Contact:* Phaedra Shaffer, Division of Surveillance and Epidemiology, Epidemiology Program Office, Centers for Disease Control, Mailstop C08, 1600 Clifton Rd., NE, Atlanta, GA 30033; telephone (404) 639-0080.

Submit calendar information to *Hazardous Substances and Public Health*, 1600 Clifton Road, NE, Mailstop E33, Atlanta, GA 30333; telephone (404) 639-6206; fax (404) 639-6208.

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